

Message Text

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ACTION OES-09

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PASS BUREAU OF MINES AND USGS OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL GEOLOGY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN, ENRG, EEWT, ETEL, PEPR, TECH, TSPA, AS, CH
SUBJECT: 12 PRC GEOLOGISTS TO UNDERTAKE FORTY DAY COURSE IN
REMOTE SENSING TECHNIQUES IN AUSTRALIA

REF: NASA CANBERRA MESSAGE 18/0245Z JULY 1978 (NOTAL)

1. 12 PRC GEOLOGISTS WILL BEGIN FORTY DAY COURSE IN REMOTE
SENSING IN AUSTRALIA IN MID-AUGUST. COURSE BEING ORGANIZED BY
SYDNEY-BASED TECHNICAL & FIELD SURVEYS PTY. LTD (TFS) IN
CONJUNCTION WITH AMDEX MINING LTD. AS WE UNDERSTAND IT, IDEA
OF COURSE AROSE AT A RECENT REMOTE SENSING SEMINAR IN MANILA.

2. TFS ORIGINALLY INTENDED PROVIDE IN-HOUSE COURSE IN
REMOTE SENSING, SIMILAR TO ONE IT HAS BEEN GIVING FOR PAST
TWO YEARS. TFS DECIDED, HOWEVER, TO BROADEN SCOPE OF
COURSE WHEN IT BECAME APPARENT THAT: (A) PRC DELEGATION
WILL BE LARGER AND WILL CONSIST OF MORE EXPERIENCED
SCIENTISTS THAN AT FIRST ANTICIPATED; AND (B) PRC

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PERSONNEL ARE SPECIFICALLY INTERESTED IN GAINING PRACTICAL
EXPERIENCE IN REMOTE SENSING THROUGH PERSONAL CONTACT
WITH RESEARCHERS, VISITS TO AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTES AND
BE EXPERIENCING THEIR ACTIVITIES AT A WORKING LEVEL.
PRC GEOSCIENTISTS ALSO INTERESTED IN STUDYING EARTHQUAKE
PREDICTION BY REMOTE SENSING. TFS HAS THUS WRITTEN TO
MINISTER OF SCIENCE, WEBSTER TO SEEK HIS PARTICIPATION

IN OPENING SESSION AND TO SEEK PERMISSION TO HAVE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND CSIRO PERSONNEL PARTICIPATE AS INSTRUCTORS/LECTURERS IN COURSE. TFS HAS ALSO WRITTEN SIMILAR LETTER TO MINISTER FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, NEWMAN. TFS HAS ALSO SOUTH PARTICIPATION (WITH AUDIOVISUAL PRESENTATION) OF CANBERRA NASA REP, WILLSON HUNTER, PERMISSION FOR GROUP VISIT ORRORAL VALLEY TRACKING STATION, AND PARTICIPATION BY NASA EXPERT FROM WASHINGTON. CANBERRA NASA REP'S REQUEST FOR NASA HEADQUARTERS CLEARANCE CONTAINED IN REFTEL.

3. AS WE OGIGINALLY UNDERSTOOD SITUATION, FORMIN PEACOCK AWARE OF PENDING VISIT AND SENT WORD TO PEKING THAT AUSTRALIA WILL WELCOME VISIT OF PRC SCIENTISTS AND WILL FACILITATE THEIR VISIT. SCIMIN, SENATOR WEBSTER, MADE UNPRECEDENTED GESTURE OF RESPONDING FAVORABLY WITHOUT DEPARTMENTAL DRAFTING TO TFS REQUEST FOR DIRECT PARTICIPATION BY DOS AND CSIRO SCIENTISTS AND INDICATED HE MIGHT BE ABLE PARTICIPATE HIMSELF.

4. NOW, HOWEVER, BUREAUCRATS IN DOS HAVE EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN THAT MINISTER ACTED TOO PRECIPITOUSLY, AS THEY AFRAID THAT OPEN-ARMED AUSTRALIAN TREATMENT OF PRC GEOSCIENTISTS MIGHT RUB THE FUR THE WRONG WAY IN USG. DOS HAS THUS ASKED OFFICE OF ADVISOR ON SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT (STE) IN DFA TO SOUND OUT USG ATTITUDES THROUGH EMBASSY.
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5. ALTHOUGH EMBOFF TOLD STE CONTACT THAT HE CONFIDENT THERE WOULD BE NO RPT NO OBJECTIONS IN WASHINGTON IN VIEW OF RECENT VISIT TO PEKING OF PRESIDENT'S SCIENCE ADVISER AND NASA DIRECTOR AND THAT RECEIPT OF ANTICIPATED NASA CLEARANCE WOULD SERVE AS PROOF OF THIS, HE AGREED TO QUERY WASHINGTON FOR A MORE FORMAL "CLEARANCE".

6. ACTION REQUESTED: IN ORDER THAT WE MAY SET MINDS IN DFA AND DOS AT REST, SOME EXPRESSION OF DEPARTMENTAL "CLEARANCE" IS REQUESTED.
ALSTON

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